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ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" That being the case, why not hon. Members of the Legislature allowed to grant poverty certificates?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I have already answered this question more than once."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Does the Hon. Minister know that in this matter officers of the lowest rank are approached by the people?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" No, Sir. Certain qualifications are prescribed for these officers, for instance, they should be officers not lower than the officers of the rank of Deputy Tahsildars or Sub-Magistrates."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" Does not the Hon. Minister think that the Deputy Tahsildars' position is high enough for this purpose?"

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has not properly understood the Minister. He says, he can punish him whereas he cannot punish you."

ABDUL LATIF FAROOKHI SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Sir, Government can punish anybody who abuses his power."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" If you like to get under this power, Government will have no objection."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" I wish to know whether Government have so far punished any official for having abused his powers?"

THE HON. SRI K. BHASHYAM :—" I have not been so long in office to answer this. If the hon. Member wants, I shall make an investigation."

Alleged corruption in Textile department.

* 71 *Q.*—C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received copies of memoranda sent by the Trichinopoly Chamber of Commerce and the Madras Piecegoods Merchants' Association regarding the existence of corruption in Textile department and among merchant class; and

(*b*) what action the Government propose to take in the matter?

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" (*a*) The Government have received a memorandum from the Madras Piecegoods Merchants' Association. No memorandum appears to have been received from the Trichy Chamber of Commerce.

" (*b*) Some vague references were made in the memorandum regarding corruption in the Textile Control Department and among the merchant class. No action could be in the absence of definite allegations."

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SRI C. N. MUTHURANGA MUDALIYAR :—" It is not the duty of Government to put down corruption when specific cases have been brought to their notice?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Certainly. Not in this case but in other cases, it has always been the duty of Government to put down corruption."

Allotment of houses under Rent Control Act.

* 72 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have prescribed any principles to govern priorities for the allotment of houses which came into their possession under section 3 of the Madras Rent Control Act;

(*b*) whether the question of 'essentiality' is a consideration in prescribing priorities and if so, how 'essentiality' has been defined;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that there have been complaints from their own officers that vacant houses are being allotted without any question of priority;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that many landlords do not intimate the fact of vacancy to the Collector and arrange to let in tenants by private arrangements;

(*e*) what steps are being taken to ensure the observance of law; and

(*f*) whether the Government propose to extend the scope of section 3 to all houses irrespective of rent paid and also include in priority for allotment all citizens on the lines of the Madras House Accommodation Order?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—"[a] (*a*) Yes. A copy of the rules is placed on the table of the House.

" (*b*) As the Act is intended to ensure accommodation for Government purposes and officers of Government the question 'essentiality' as amongst Government officers is governed by the principles laid down by the Government for the purpose.

" (*c*) No complaints of this nature have been received so far.

" (*d*) There have been six cases and the Collector of Madras is taking suitable action against the offenders.

" (*e*) Section 16 (1) of the Act provides for the punishment of the offenders under section 3 (1) of the Act. The Collectors have special revenue staff under them to check up vacancies of houses. Proposals to further amend the Act so as to ensure strict observance of law are under consideration, to provide for :—

(i) for prosecution of the landlord who even after intimating a vacancy, lets in someone else without the orders of the Government;

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[a] Printed as Appendix II on pages 48, 49 infra.